REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 1-31 and 35-44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 32 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 32-34 would be pending.

II. Objection to Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 32-34 as containing informalities. Applicants have amended these claims to address the inconsistencies noted by the Examiner. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hudyma (WO 02/056114 hereinafter "Hudyma"). Claims 5, 16, 35, 36, 38-41 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudyma in view of Terasawa (US 2003/0147131, hereafter Terasawa). Claims 23-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudyma in view of Hudyma (US 6,262,836, hereafter "Hudyma '836"). Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudyma in view of Hudyma '836 as applied to claim 32 above, and further in view of Terasawa. Claims 37, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudyma in view of Hudyma '836 and Terasawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims, for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-31 and 35-44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Independent claim 32, as amended, is directed to a catoptric projection optical system comprising six mirrors that include, in order from the object surface to the image surface and along an optical path of said catoptric projection optical system, a first mirror, a second mirror, a third mirror, a fourth mirror, a fifth mirror, and a six mirror to sequentially reflect light. The first mirror has a convex or plane shape, and the fifth mirror receives convergent pencil of rays. An intermediate image is formed between the fourth and third mirrors. The six mirrors are arranged, in order a near distance along an optical axis from the object surface as follows: the second mirror, the first mirror, the fourth mirror, the sixth mirror, the third mirror and the fifth mirror.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 32, as amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, individually or in combination. For example, the cited references appear to be at least silent as to the six mirrors being arranged, in order a near distance along an optical axis from the object surface as follows: the second mirror, the first mirror, the fourth mirror, the sixth mirror, the third mirror and the fifth mirror. Accordingly, claims 32-34 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5298.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5298.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 9/28/05 By: _____

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